

From: pfharlock
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 7:43am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

My name is Gary Watson. I wouldn't have known to send this email if I had not been reading slashdot, which I feel is a little irresponsible in a case that primarily involves a matter of public interest, (like an antitrust trial). That being said, I would like to voice my complaint about Microsoft being found guilty of breaking antitrust law and not being punished. Your effectively saying, yup, that's them, they're definately a monopoly, but heck if we know what to do about it. The situation is just as bad as it was before the trial began, or maybe even worse because it gives microsoft an even greater reason to believe that the law will never touch them.

It was at one time suggested that microsoft be cut up into 3 companies, this would do nothing but turn a monopoly into a collective oligopoly, I say that you should cut the company up into no less than 10 serperate competing companies, giving each one the rights to make and produce the windows OS code, each possibly developing a seperate shoot off of windows, and certainly break away all the peripheral arms from the part of the company that does OS design primarily, (ie seperate out the network applications division like IE but which also includes the web servers and the newest .NET component which is slated to kill any chance of competition all over again, the MS office division, the games division, effectively dismantle the marketing division, and let each company take a few members of the marketing team with them as they walk out the door). This would solve the problem, but after this trial I am in doubt if the courts have the resolve to see such an action through. It appears as though they are completely apathetic to having antitrust laws in the first place.

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